



The RADIOGRAM

When All Else Fails ~ Amateur Radio Works



January 2007 ~ Official Newsletter of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) ~ Vol. 2 No. 1

~ 2007 Officers ~

President: - Tom Sly - WB8LCD
 Vice President - Jim Aylward - KC8PD
 Sec/Treasurer - Tom Parkinson - KB8UJZ
 3 Year Trustee - Russ Anderson - KB8DPN
 2 Year Trustee - Al Atkins - KB8VJL
 1 Year Trustee - Joe Wehner - W8KNO

~ Meetings ~

2nd Monday of
 every month. 7pm
 at
 Mike's Place
 Routes 43 and
 261 in Kent

~ Nets ~

Thursday nights
 8 PM
 on 146.895
 PL Tones
 110.9 Rootstown
 114.8 Kent

PCARS
 ARRL affiliated
 April 20, 2006



From the President

As we start our second year I want to point out to you that from the very beginning, I've had two main goals for PCARS:

- 1 - Have Fun With Ham Radio
- 2 - Everyone is Welcome, Needed, and Appreciated.

I think we have lived up to the spirit of those two goals, and I don't want to abandon either one of them. Both are important to the continued success of PCARS!

Having fun you might think is pretty simple, but how many hams get a ticket, get on the air a few times, then sit back and never go any further? Too many I'm afraid. But not us! The best way to have fun is to participate, learn new skills and try different activities. I know this is going to be another good year to participate and enjoy the activities that PCARS makes available to you. It's always more fun to learn new skills with a group, and take advantage of the skills other members have already developed. Ham Radio is a hobby that has lots of sub-hobbies within it and the more we try, the more fun we're going to have! I hope I'll see you all at our meetings and activities. And don't forget to check into the Thursday evening two meter net.

Being an open and inviting club is the only way we can continue to attract new members and retain the ones we already have. This first year, the officers of PCARS made a special effort to meet and greet everyone at all of our meetings and activities. That will continue to be our aim, but we need your help. Please, don't let anyone ever walk away from a PCARS function feeling like they weren't welcome or they didn't fit in. If you see someone new, go out of your way to make them feel like they are a part of the group right from the start.

It's been said: "build it, and they will come". Sounds nice, but in our case, don't count on it! We need to be proactive at inviting others to become members of PCARS. I'm appointing you all as ambassadors.

Next time you talk to someone new, or someone you know who is not a member, invite them to our meeting, or to participate in on our Thursday night net. Let them know we want them to join us.

I've been involved in several organizations where the business meeting was always long and boring. At PCARS we've tried to keep the business meetings short and to the point. I've never seen a gravestone that said "I wish I had spent more time at meetings". But there is business that needs to be attended to and we get the job done. Your officers also meet once a month to make sure we keep the club on track and attend to some of the details we



would rather not bore you with at the general meeting. It is not our intention to keep any secrets or keep anyone out of the process. If you ever feel there is something that should be brought up, either let us know ahead of time, or bring it up when we ask for new business. The more feedback you can give us, the better we can make the club experience live up to everyone's expectations. (Actually, we hope we can always exceed your expectations!)

So, hang on - 2007 is going to be another great year for Ham Radio in general and PCARS in particular! I appreciate the contribution each of you has made to the success of the club, and I wish you all the personal success you can stand!

Best to all! 73 For now,

Tom - WB8LCD

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From the Vice President

Here's hoping that all PCARS members had a very Merry Christmas and enjoy a Happy New Year!

A great time was had by all who attended the Christmas party and everyone appreciated the fact that Joe, W8KNO, was able to arrange for the visit by Santa



Claus. As much fun as the adults had, we can be sure that one little guy will long remember it.

Russell, the harmonic of Russ, KB8DPN, and Irene, KD8DFM, had his first chance to meet Santa face-to-face. Santa, who has extensive

experience in these matters, deftly approached Russell and calmed his fears before presenting him with a very

special Christmas present: Thomas the Tank Engine. Gee, how did Santa know that this was exactly what Russell wanted?

Some of us took another road trip in December. This time it was to the 20/9 Club meeting in Canfield for a



presentation on ham radio relief efforts post-Katrina in Mississippi. In addition to myself, Tom, WB8LCD, Russ, KB8DPN, Nick, N8WLE, and Tom, KB8UUZ, all made the trip. It was a pleasure to make the acquaintance of the officers and members of 20/9 and we hope to have the chance to work again with them in the future.

The next Technician course will begin at the Maplewood Career Center on January 9, 2007. If you know anyone interested in taking the Technician test, have them contact me at kc8pd@portcars.org so that we can include them that evening. They can also contact Maplewood at 330-296-2892 (ext. 104) and register by phone prior to the start of the class.

We have publicized the class in the Record Courier, posted fliers in local libraries and stores, and sent the flier out to all Portage County high schools. We plan to offer the class again next Fall and welcome your suggestions for additional ways to get the word and recruit students.

Just like in the Fall, the last night of class will also be a VE session so that the students will have a chance to finish the course with their ticket.

Our VE team will also be offering testing bi-monthly at the Center of Hope. The plan is to offer Element Two – Technician, Element Three – General, and Element Four – Extra tests at every session. Watch the Radiogram for the VE schedule. In order to help us plan, if you or anyone you know may be interested in taking any of the tests please call me at home (330) 397-7979, or send me a note at kc8pd@portcars.org. We will also accommodate walk-ins.

As always, we want to make sure that we are planning far enough in advance to give you plenty of notice about future events and programs. More importantly, we want to be sure that we are providing activities and information that **you** want. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please send me a note or give me a call.

Jim - KC8PD



PCARS 2006 DVD

Make sure your at the January PCARS meeting! I put together a DVD with all the photos taken over the past year (and then some). Over 650 pictures!! The DVD has 13 chapters and highlights



PCARS activities. This is a home made DVD, so some DVD players may have problems with it. It all depends on your DVD player. However, if you have a DVD player on your PC, it should work just fine!



Tom - KB8UUZ

Outgoing QSL Rates Going Up

ARRL Outgoing QSL Service revises rates (Dec 4, 2006) -- The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service has announced a new and simplified rate structure, effective January 1, 2007. The new basic rate will be \$5 per half-pound (8 ounces -- or approximately 75 cards) or any portion of a half-pound. That's a change from the current rate of \$4 per half-pound or any portion. One pound will cost \$10, and packages will be assessed \$5 for each additional half-pound (or portion thereof). For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds of cards



will cost \$15, while a package containing 1.75 pounds of cards will cost \$20. For smaller packages, the fee is only \$1.50 for 10 or fewer cards, \$2.50 for 11 to 20 cards and \$3.75 for 21 to 30 cards.

The new rate structure will help to cover basic handling costs for smaller packages while actually offering a price break to moderate-volume users submitting up to one-half pound of cards. The new rates are in response to the recent postal rate increase and price restructuring. The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service is available to ARRL members. The last rate revision went into effect in March 2001.



From the ARRL

Straight Key Night - Jan 1st



The ARRL once again will sponsor the popular Straight Key Night (SKN) starting at 0000 UTC January 1 (New Year's Eve in US time zones) and continuing for the next 24 hours. SKN is not a contest, just an opportunity for CW enthusiasts -- veterans or novices -- to dust off their straight keys and enjoy socializing and "rag chewing" on the air. Some 350 participants posted entries for SKN 2006. SKN 2007 entries via e-mail or the USPS -- SKN, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 -- must be received by January 31, 2007. "Best Fist" and "Most Interesting QSO" votes will appear in April 2007 QST. "Soapbox" posts also are welcome.

During the same time period, AMSAT invites radio amateurs worldwide to participate in Straight Key Night on OSCAR 2007. The AMSAT event is dedicated to the memory of Cliff Buttschardt, K7RR, an enthusiastic and longtime SKN participant on both OSCAR and HF. AMSAT says there are no rules or scoring and no need to send in a log. "Just operate CW through any OSCAR between 0000 and 2400 UTC on 1 January 2007 using a straight key," the announcement says. SKN on OSCAR 2007 participants also may nominate a "Best Fist" from among stations worked. Nominations go to Ray Soifer, W2RS. A list of nominees will appear in AMSAT News Service and in The AMSAT Journal.

From the ARRL

Paper Chase

On the Thursday night two meter net, each check-in was asked for a New Year's resolution. Our President, WB8LCD, said his was to earn some paper and his fist try was to obtain a "Worked All States Award." He even established a period in which to do this. He gave himself until the end of February. GOOD LUCK, Tom! The award is given for working a station in each of the fifty states from a location or from multiple locations of which no two can be more than fifty (50) miles apart. The preferred method of establishing that a contact has taken place is with a QSL card but the ARRL will accept contacts logged on the LOG BOOK of the WORLD.



You can find more information about how to use the LOG BOOK of the WORLD on the ARRL web site, www.arrl.org. The complete rules, forms and instructions for this award can be found at www.arrl.org/awards/was. The twist in obtaining this award is that you must be an ARRL member.

If you are interested in getting lots of paper, you might subscribe to the online version of the DX Awards Directory. The directory is maintained by Ted Melinosky - K1BV, the Awards Editor of CQ Magazine. The cost is minimal; last year it was six dollars. You can find out more about this at www.dxawards.com. Hear you in the pile ups.

Joe - W8KNO

Charlie the Tuner's HF Hi-Lites

Happy New Year – 2007!! It seems like yesterday that everyone was talking about all the computers crashing because of Y2K. Now it's 2007 and if your



computer crashes, it has nothing to do with the year but may have something to do with the operator. I hope that Santa was really good to all of you. I know that he was REALLY good to me. NO COAL

this year!! But the Heil Pro-Set 5 head set is a real nifty item.

I also hope that some of you who have not been on HF and have the privileges, will get on the HF bands and start to really have some fun working DX. For instance, I have been trying to work the DXpedition on Lakshadweep, but I have been unable to hear them most of the time and the pile ups have been thick. But today I got on 20 and simply called CQ DX and VU7LD called me! He gave me a "57 gud sig" and went on his way. I heard him later on down the band working a pile up. You never know what you are going to hear or work. SO to help some of you out, here is a list of some of the more interesting things that will be going on this month.

1A- IZ4AKS, IZ4DPV, I4UFH, IK4UPB and IW0DJB will operate as 1A4A (yes, One Alpha Four Alpha) from the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) on January 2-8. Activity will take place from the extraterritorial zone of Villa Malta on the Aventine in Rome. Three or four stations will be active on 2-160 meters SSB, CW and RTTY; plans are to concentrate on certain DX areas (Japan, South America and West Coast) and on the low bands.

5H- F6AML as 5H1Z from Zanzibar Island (AF-032) on January 18-29. On SSB & CW on 80-10 meters and to pay special attention to North America and Asia, especially on the low bands. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

9M- 9M4SDX is the callsign issued to the March 2007 expedition to the Spratly Islands. A large group of operators from Japan and Malaysia will be active from Layang Layang (AS-051) on March 10-19 with four stations on all bands and modes. QSL via 9M2TO, direct or bureau.

9M2- PA0RRS (9M2MRS) will be active again from Penang Island (AS-015) from January 1 to February 28. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

9N- 9N7JO reports he will be QRV from Nepal "on and off" at various periods during 2007. He will operate on all the HF bands SSB, CW, PSK31 and RTTY. QSL direct only to his home address.

BV- N8BJQ, W8UVZ, W9ZR and several local operators will be active as BX0ZR from Taiwan on January 8-21. Expect activity on all bands with an emphasis on 160 and 80 meters. QSL via W8UVZ.

JA- Special event station 8J8WSC is active until March 4, 2007 to celebrate the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships that will take place in Sapporo (Hokkaido) from February 22 to March 4. QSL via bureau.

J2- J20SA (ON7SAT) will be leaving on December 17, but he has had his license extended. He will return to Djibouti on January 4, for about three weeks. The website for his activity, on-line log included, is at <http://users.telenet.be/on4knp/>

S2- The callsign to be used during the January 10-16 operation from Bangladesh has changed. The Spanish team will be active as S21XA on 160-6 meters SSB, CW and RTTY with three stations. QSL via EA3BT, direct or bureau.

VK- Special event call VI3JAM will be activated on January 2-13 for the 21st Scouts Australia's Jamboree held in Elmore, Victoria (website under construction at www.vi3jam.com). In 2007 the Scouting Movement will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and a second special event station (VI3SAA) will be QRV from a number of scout centenary events throughout 2007. Two commemorative QSLs will be issued.

W- DL3OCH, DL2JRM, DL5SE and DL5YWM will be active as W4/homecall from Key West (NA-062) from December 29 to January 2. They also plan to operate from a few ARLHS lighthouses and USI islands during that time frame. QSL via home calls.

YV0- After the successful YX5IOTA operation, the 4M5DX Group is organizing a DXpedition to Aves Island (NA-020) to take place for ten days starting around February 5, 2007. A team of fifteen operators will be active as YW0DX on all bands and modes. QSL via IT9DAA, direct or bureau.

CQ DX MARATHON ---> The new CQ DX Marathon is a year long DX hunt, with participants competing to see who can work the greatest number of countries ("entities") and CQ zones over the course of a full year, then starting again at zero at the beginning of the next year. This year's Marathon began at 00.00 UTC on January 1 and will end at 23.59 UTC on

December 31: "it is now time to start gathering your country and zone contacts made in 2006", John, K9EL says, "and enter them onto the official DX Marathon score sheet available at <http://www.dxmarathon.com>". All logs must be received no later than February 28, 2007. The 2007 Marathon will start at 00:00 UTC on January 1.

JIIA - The JIIA Activity Year will run from January 1 through December 31, 2007 to celebrate the Japanese IOTA Islands Award (JIIA) program's 5th anniversary. A special award will be issued for contacts made with at least 10 stations operating from different islands. Please contact Yuki, JI6KVR (ji6kvr@dance.ocn.ne.jp) for further information.

There you have it for January 2007 with some longer range items thrown in for good measure. I hope to hear some of you talking about your DX experiences on the net. 73's and Gud DX in 2007.

Chuck - K8CMP

You're Never Too Old

Remember the thrill and sense of accomplishment that you felt when the examiners announced that you had passed your first amateur radio license exam? You were probably excited about all that was to come with your new hobby and relieved that the test was behind you.

For many of us, that happened when we were adolescents or teens. The rest of us either came back to or discovered ham radio and were first licensed when we were adults. But very few of us heard "Congratulations, you passed" at the same point in life as Clarence Hollow - KD8ETS, did.

On Saturday, December 2, 2006, at age ninety-one, Clarence passed the test for his Technician license, and for Clarence, his wife Betty, and the VE team there were smiles all the way around.



The American Radio Relay League was born in 1914. Clarence arrived the following year on August 25th in Akron, Ohio. Two months later on October 20, 1915, the first successful trans-Atlantic voice transmission was sent from New Jersey to France. Both radio and Clarence were in their infancy at the same time.

After high school Clarence first found work as a welder and for most of his working career was involved in metal work of some sort, everything from punch press operator to plant manager. Most of his life he worked in Ohio, other than a few years in the early seventies when he lived in South Carolina. He returned to Ohio when his first wife, Evelyn, passed away. They were married

for thirty-seven years. They had two children, Gary, who lives nearby in Ohio, and Joyce, who resides in Colorado. He was married to his second wife, Laura, for twenty-three years until she passed away. He lost both wives to cancer. Betty and Clarence were married seven years ago having met at church.

Clarence faced some major health issues of his own over the years including triple bypass surgery and the loss of half a lung to cancer. Despite that, he has always been very active. After he retired in 1981 he was a volunteer at the local hospital in the 1980's and 1990's amassing nearly four thousand hours of service. In addition, he volunteered at a local non-profit medical clinic for eight years.

His working career was interrupted by service in the United States Navy from 1944 to 1946, where Clarence earned the rank of boatswain. Because he was color blind his service was restricted to stateside duty.

Surprisingly, radio in general, and amateur radio in particular, did not catch Clarence's interest until 2006. During the summer he happened to see an article in a local paper about an upcoming hamfest and decided to attend it. What he saw and heard piqued his curiosity about the hobby. He was disappointed when he received no replies to the phone messages that he left for the head of an area club.

Not one to be easily deterred, Clarence called the Federal Communication Commission for assistance. The FCC provided him with the phone number for the Newington offices of the ARRL. After speaking with Clarence, Norm Fusaro - W3IZ, of the ARRL sent an e-mail to Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ, secretary/treasurer of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) to see if he could help.

As luck would have it, PCARS was offering a Technician license course that was starting in September at the Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna, Ohio, Clarence's home town. Tom contacted Clarence with information about the class and arranged for his registration. Teaching the class as a team were Tom - KB8UUZ, Tom Sly - WB8LCD, Russ Anderson - KB8DPN, and Jim Aylward - KC8PD.



Clarence was an attentive student, making it to all but one of the classes. Getting around is complicated a bit by the oxygen he has to carry with him. But he takes it all in stride and with good humor. So good, in fact, that one evening during class he suddenly announced that he had to leave. When asked if he was okay he said he was fine, "Just running out of gas." He found the technical materials, particularly Ohm's law, to be the most difficult.

The last night of class was set aside for the VE session. A special test was printed for Clarence in thirty-six point type to accommodate his visual limitations. He usually employs a magnifying glass but the large type enabled him to read the questions without using it.

It just wasn't Clarence's night and much to his disappointment he did not pass the test. Fortunately, he is not one to give up, and neither were his instructors. Another VE session was scheduled four weeks later. During that time Clarence continued to study and review the material with assistance from Betty and his son Gary, along with some tutoring by Carl Capps - N4TIE, and Jim - KC8PD.

Needless to say, we were all a bit anxious when Saturday, December 2nd rolled around, except maybe Clarence who seemed relaxed. He took his time, reviewing each question carefully. One other applicant was sitting for the Technician test and four were taking the Amateur Extra exam that day. Clarence turned in his exam and one by one the three VE's graded it. Only after we had all finished did we add up the correct answers. He had passed!

As you can see by the accompanying picture, these were probably four of the happiest VE's you would ever find as they stood next to Clarence who was proudly holding his Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination. He said that he felt "great" when he passed and Betty was very happy for him. So happy that it was her treat to take him out for a lobster dinner.

Clarence had purchased an HT in anticipation of passing the test and Tom - KB8UUZ, helped him program in all the local repeaters as well as the channels for area safety forces.

Clarence also decided that it was time to get hooked up to the internet so that he could try out Echolink. On Thursday, December 14th, all those who checked in on the PCARS Thursday night net had a chance to hear from Portage County's newest ham.

We all find personal satisfaction from the hobby of amateur radio in a variety of ways. Whether its DXing, contests, working QRP, going mobile or portable, tracking satellites, ragchewing, exploring microwaves, or building kits, just to name a few, there is something for everyone. But as instructors and VE's we can tell you that all of those have a hard time matching the thrill of handing that CSCE to a brand new ham and saying "Congratulations."



Clarence Hollow - KD8ETS, center, happily displays his Technician CSCE with the Portage County Amateur Radio Service VE team, left to right, Carl Capps - N4TIE, Russ Anderson - KB8DPN, Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ, and Jim Aylward - KC8PD.

Jim - KC8PD

PCARS VE Test Sessions

PCARS VE sessions for 2007 are scheduled for the first Saturday of every other month starting in February.

VE sessions For Technician, CW, General and Amateur Extra will start at 10:00 am at the Center of Hope, located at 1034 West Main Street in Ravenna. Walk-ins are welcome.

Please bring your original license, a copy of your license, your original CSCE, a copy of your CSCE, a photo ID, and a check for \$14.00 made out to "ARRL-VEC". We look forward to seeing you there!!!!



2007 Schedule

Feb 3, Apr 7, Jun 2, Aug 4, Oct 6, Dec 1

FCC's Morse Code Report & Order

The FCC's 05-235 R&O on the Commission's proposal to eliminate the Morse code requirement for all license classes was issued on 12/19/2006.

However, it does NOT go into effect until 30 days from the time it is printed in the Federal Register. The Federal Register Publication Date and the Effective Date are NOT yet known. As soon as the R&O is published in the Federal Register the ARRL will verify the effective date and publicize it on the ARRL Web.

The FCC has clarified that there will be no changes in the administration of Amateur Radio examination elements or upgrades and in granting a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE). CSCEs

are only valid for examination credit for 365 days from date of issuance per FCC Rule 97.505(a)(6); applicants cannot use CSCEs older than that to upgrade. Amateurs possessing CSCEs that have gone beyond the 365 day window must retest. The FCC will not make any exceptions to this rule. Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) will handle all upgrades through volunteer examiner teams.

Candidates for General or Amateur Extra testing between now and the effective date of the new rules will still have to pass Element 1 (5 WPM Morse code) to obtain new privileges. Those earning Element 3 or Element 4 credit between now and the effective date of the new rules will receive a CSCE from the VE team. Once the new rules are in place, anyone holding a valid CSCE may apply for an upgrade at a VE examination session. As with any candidate who attends a test session, the candidate must present a photo ID, their current license and CSCE document, pay the \$14 test session fee and fill out a NCVEC form 605 to have the upgrade paperwork processed. The upgrade may NOT be sent directly to the FCC or the VEC.

From the ARRL VEC

Amateur Radio Exam Question Pools Altered to Agree with New Rules

With numerous new FCC Part 97 rules soon going into effect, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has dropped two dozen questions from the three Amateur Radio examination question pools. The deletions will bring ham radio license exams offered starting December 15 into line with rule changes spelled out in the recent FCC "omnibus" Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says ARRL VEC-sponsored examination sessions will go forward without interruption.

"ARRL VEC will not be replacing any of our exam booklets affected by the WT 04-140 rule changes," Somma said. "We will, instead, be using stickers to substitute alternate questions. The stickers will contain valid questions to place in the exam booklets to cover up the deleted questions." The stickers will go out by December 15 to ARRL VEC volunteer examiner teams that have been formally field stocked.

The QPC cut just one question from the Technician question pool, 13 from the General pool and 10 from the Amateur Extra pool. Changes in rules governing frequency privileges and external RF power amplifier standards accounted for the lion's share of the questions cut from the General and Amateur Extra pools.

In a letter earlier this month to all ARRL VEC teams, Somma pointed out that even after the deletions, "sufficient questions will remain in the applicable pools to meet the mandated '10-times' rule, so no new questions are being added to existing pools." The "10-times" rule requires question pools to include 10 times the number of questions on a given examination for that license class.

From the ARRL

Mark Your Calendars

On the calendar for upcoming meeting topics & activities are:

- **January 8th** club meeting – **Amateur Radio Satellites**, video
- **February 3rd** - VE Testing - 10am - Center of Hope, Ravenna
- **February 12th** club meeting – **National Traffic System - Bill - WB9LBI**
- **February 24th** – **Freeze Your Acorns Off**
- **March 12th** club meeting – **Introduction to Contesting** (tentative)
- **March 24th** – **Homebrew Antenna Workshop** (date tentative)
- **April 7th** - VE Testing - 10am - Center of Hope, Ravenna
- **April 9th** club meeting – **Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS)** (tentative)
- **May 14th** club meeting – **DXing**
- **May 26th** – Antenna setup day at Ravenna City Park
- **June 2nd** - VE Testing - 10am - Center of Hope, Ravenna
- **June 11th** club meeting – topic open
- **June 23rd and 24th** – **FIELD DAY!**

Whiskers 8 Santa - W8S

Santa has reported that during the operation of W8S he had the opportunity to talk to ten youngsters from northeast Ohio and eleven young at heart.

He also said he did not leave any coal though Jenna, the daughter of N8GIE, had asked for some for her dad. Jenna, I hope you gave your new dog a bone from Santa.



Santa's Helper - Joe - W8KNO

EmComm

Rather than a specific topic, this month's column will cover a variety of issues that have come up recently.

There was a great deal of attention given to the FCC's Report and Order that took effect on December 15th because of its "re-farming" of the eighty and forty

meter bands. Last month's column noted the confusion created by the FCC's original order for its apparent elimination of Winlink/Airmail Pactor III data communications on the 75/80 meter band due to the bandwidth used by those modes.

An eleventh hour petition by the ARRL (and a groundswell of e-mails from the emcomm community) prompted a last minute response by the FCC. At the same time that the FCC announced the elimination of the Element One Morse Code requirement, it modified its previous order by providing an alternate spectrum for Pactor III in the 3585-3600 kHz segment.

This will still require the Winlink PMBO's operating on the 75/80 meter band to change frequencies but at least operations will still be available. This is good news because that band can be particularly useful for emcomm during the overnight hours and for near-range work.

Another provision in the original order affected RACES. You may recall that RACES was restricted to operation on specific frequencies in the HF bands during activation. The original idea was that these frequencies would then be off-limits to normal amateur radio activities during the RACES operation.

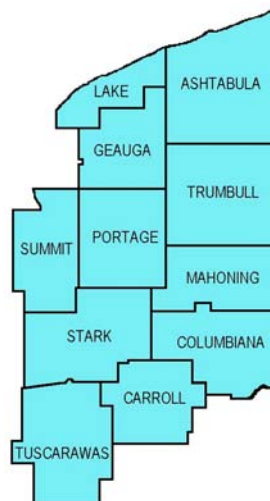


The FCC order effective December 15th eliminated the restrictions on bands and segments. The Order noted that the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has authority over RACES in terms of frequencies to be used and could make such designations in the event of emergency activation of RACES. Accordingly, the specific designation in the rules of bands and segments during wartime emergencies was deemed "unnecessary."

There had been comments submitted to the FCC that suggested that the restrictions on the stations that RACES operators could communicate with should be eliminated. Under current law RACES operators can only communicate with other RACES operators during an activation. The FCC declined to consider eliminating this restriction because this action had not been a part of the original NPRM.

The FCC did clarify that licensed amateurs who also happen to be employed by entities involved in disaster relief and recovery are not precluded from using the amateur service bands "while in a paid duty status." The FCC's rationale was that these hams are not being compensated for their amateur radio activities but are being paid in their capacities as emergency personnel.

On a more local note, the Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator, Frank Piper, KI8GW, announced on December 20th that effective January 1, 2007, there would be a realignment of the ARES districts in the Ohio Section. There will be nine districts and Portage County will be in District 5.



Piper's reasoning was that these district boundaries would "...align the Lead Volunteer Centers of the Ohio Citizen Corps and the Regional Medical Response System, while still support existing SKYWARN reporting plans."

You can review the complete new Ohio map of ARES districts at www.iarc.ws/ohio.

What does this mean for us locally? Who knows and only time will tell if it will result in any more of an effective ARES operation in this area.

Did you realize that that the vast majority of international traffic on the internet and telephone services occurs over undersea data transmission cables? If you ever wondered just how fragile telecommunications remain in the 21st century an undersea earthquake on December 26th near Taiwan answered that question.

Damage to fiber optic cables left telecommunications disrupted in Asia as well as from North America to Asia at least through the end of that week. Too often we think that satellites are providing this service but they have nowhere near the capacity to carry the volume of traffic that is required on a daily basis. During this outage traffic from Asia had to be rerouted through the limited cable capacity that runs through Europe.

Once again this proves the ARRL's motto that "When all else fails...amateur radio is there." If the earthquake's damage had extended inland, we know who would still be moving the emergency traffic.

It is a new year. Charge those batteries and check that equipment to make sure that it is operational and you remember how to use it. Do you have the emergency supplies that your family may need at home? Make emergency preparedness your primary New Year's resolution.



Jim – KC8PD

ARRL Club Newsletter

ARRL announces new electronic newsletter for clubs: A new monthly newsletter, ARRL Club News, will soon be available via e-mail at no charge

to ARRL members. Designed to help invigorate Amateur Radio clubs and their activities, each issue will contain information and highlights for and about ARRL-affiliated clubs.

"Although the first issues will be in text format, we expect to have the ARRL Club News available in HTML format so we can share photos and other exciting material from over 2000 ARRL-affiliated clubs," says ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Coordinator Norm Fusaro, W3IZ.

The first issue of ARRL Club News went out Wednesday, December 6. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery, ARRL members must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. During registration, members will have the opportunity to sign up for e-mail delivery of the ARRL Club News, The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins and other material. ARRL members already registered and logged into the Web site may subscribe to ARRL Club News by visiting the Member Data Page <http://www.arrl.org/members/>, scrolling down to "Which of the following would you like to receive automatically via email from ARRL?" and checking the box for ARRL Club News (monthly club news).



From the ARRL

Editor's Note: In the first ARRL newsletter, PCARS was the first Spotlight Club listed!

Happy Birthday PCARS Members

Seven PCARS member have a birthday in January:

K8CMP - Chuck Patellis	01/01
N8TPK - Scott McKinney	01/01
N8PXW - Jim Korenz	01/15
KB8SZI - Peggy Parkinson	01/20
KB8VSQ - Michael Lee	01/22
KC8TYR - Robin Maughan	01/22
W8WWG - Charles Sharp	01/27

Swap-N-Shop

FOR SALE: **Astron RM-35M**, rack mount power supply. Separate Voltage and Amp meters. 35 amp peak, 25 amp continuous. \$100 or best offer. contact: Tom by e-mail at wb8lcd@portcars.org

Send In Your Log!

During the last 10-10 sprint, the band was terrible! I was on for most of the day and the only contact I made was to Joe-W8KNO in Hiram. I figured that was it - no sense in sending in the log with only one contact. Well, Joe sent his in (I was his only contact that day, too).

Guess what - Joe got **FIRST PLACE** for section 8!!! He was the only person to send in his log from the entire eighth section!

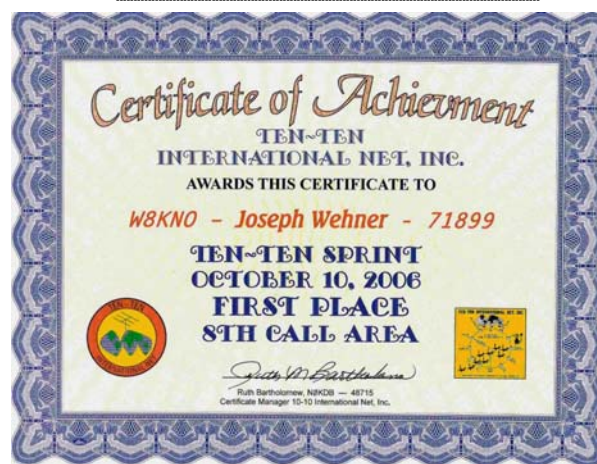


2006 10-10 Day Sprint

RESULTS OF THE
TEN-TEN SPRINT
OCTOBER 10, 2006

US CALL AREA 8

Call	10-10	w/wo	pts
W8KNO	71899	001/000	0002



So, it goes to show you - SEND IN THAT LOG!!!
Even if you only make one contact.

Tom - KB8UUZ

Road Rally Communications

Interested in being a communications volunteer for a road rally? The Northeast Ohio Region of the Sports Car Club of America will be holding the Ohio Winter Rally 2007 on Saturday, January 20th starting at the Mentor Saturn dealership at 1700 hours.

This is a time/speed/distance rally where each vehicle has a driver and navigator whose objective is to complete each leg of the rally within a specified time. Too fast or too slow and you lose points.



One of this rally's goals is to provide challenging road conditions during a northeast Ohio winter so the rally will proceed no matter how inclement (or how nice) the weather may be.

The rally organizers need communication volunteers to assist at the control points along the route. Obviously nighttime conditions in the winter will make it crucial to maintain good communication links, particularly to ensure that all entrants can be tracked for their own safety!

If you would like more information you can check the posting at: <http://www.neohio-scca.org/> or contact Ken Swarm, N8PPT, who is the rally chairman at kswarm_2000@yahoo.com.

The first car is not due back until 2320 hours so if you plan on volunteering remember that you won't be getting home till after midnight.

Saturn of Mentor is located at 6960 Center Street in Mentor, Ohio 44060. All volunteers will need to arrive early in order to get their assignments and head out to the control locations.

PCARS Shirts, Hats, etc.

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service logo can be embroidered on a shirt, t-shirt, hat, sweatshirt, etc. along with your name and call sign. The club does not make any money on this, but we want to pass on the information for those of you wanting to show off the PCARS logo! Contact : www.CallsignWear.com - Matt Sikorski - S&S Computer Imaging, Inc. - email: info@callsignwear.com - Phone: 413-536-0117 - Fax: 413-538-7130.



e-QSL

I was surprised to learn that there are nine QSL cards waiting for me at www.eQSL.org. Amazing. Why didn't one of you guys tell me?

The answer is that you have to go and take a look to see for yourself if there are any electronic QSLs awaiting your retrieval. If you don't check you'll never know. As it turns out, there are a surprising number of PCARS members who have NOT signed up at eQSL.org. And a number of you have some very

interesting QSL cards just waiting to surprise and delight you.

N8KBX, N6TL, N4PKW, AB8UD, WB8FEW, N4TIE, WB8VNO, KC8FQV, K8HGX, WB8OVQ, N8WLE, KD8DFM, WD8DAU, N8EQJ, N8HU, W8WWG

And the winner is: W8KNO, who has literally hundreds of eQSLs waiting. I gave up counting after about 200. There are also those club members who have signed up with eQSL.org, but have quite a few QSL cards that they haven't looked at yet. I could publicly cite WB8LCD and KC8PD...but that would be mean-spirited.



Sending and receiving electronic QSLs is free for their basic service. If you want to put a custom graphic on your eQSL card, it'll cost you \$10. This site accepts your computerized from any of the many logging programs that support ADIF format. If you're a Luddite like me, still keeping your station log by hand, you can re-type it all into the site's manual log entry link.

An little-known side benefit is that you can see who's sent eQSLs to other hams. This leads to some interesting conversation starters, like "Say, Chuck, I see that you had a QSO with your friend Hugo YV5TX the other day. Did you congratulate him on being re-elected as Dictator of Venezuela?"

Sorry, but none of the contacts confirmed on eQSL.org will count toward DXCC or other League awards. For that, you have to utilize Logbook of the World at <http://www.arl.org/lotw>

Bill - WB9LBI

ARRL Kids Day is January 7, 2007

The next chance to provide youngsters with a fun, hands-on radio experience is Sunday, January 7, when ARRL's first Kids Day of the new year takes place.

"The popularity of the Kids Day operating activity continues to grow," says ARRL Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME.

Spencer says a reported 484 kids took part in last June's Kids Day, making more than 2100 QSOs. Suggested frequencies are 14.270 to 14.300 MHz, 21.380 to 21.400 MHz and 28.350 to 28.400 MHz, plus local VHF repeaters with the sponsor's permission. Licensees should observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX contacts. These apply when unlicensed individuals communicate via ham radio.

Purpose: Kid's Day is intended to encourage young

people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people hands-on on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is intended to give hams a chance to share their station with their children.

Dates: January 7, 2007 and June 16, 2007.

Time: 1800 to 2400Z. No limit on operating time.

Suggested exchange: Name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day."

Suggested Frequencies: 28350 to 28400 kHz, 21380 to 21400, 14270 to 14300 kHz and 2-meter repeater frequencies with permission from your area repeater sponsor. Observe third party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs.

Reporting: Logs and comments may be posted on the Internet. Those without Internet access may forward comments to the Boring Amateur Radio Club (address below).

Awards: All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate (it becomes the child's personalized sales brochure on ham radio). You can download this certificate for free, customized with the kids' names, after filling out our Kid's Day Survey, or send a 9 X 12 SASE to: Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357; Boring, OR 97009.

From the ARRL

PCARS Meetings - Mike's Place

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) meets on the second Monday of every month at Mike's Place - 1700 S. Water St. - Kent. Meetings start at 7 PM sharp and all are invited to attend. You can find out a whole lot more about Mike's Place on the web at: www.mikesplacerestaurant.com

You can look over their entire menu and see some interesting stuff on the web site. Check it out!

HAM RADIO OPERATORS HOLD FOOD DRIVE

Members of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service Inc. held a food drive at their November meeting and recently delivered their donations to the Center of Hope in Ravenna. From left, Tom Sly (WB8LCD) hands Daryle Fullum, center director, an envelope filled with cash, and Jim Aylward (KC8PD) shows her the car full of food the members donated.



RECORD-COURIER Saturday, December 2, 2006 A7

LIFETIMES

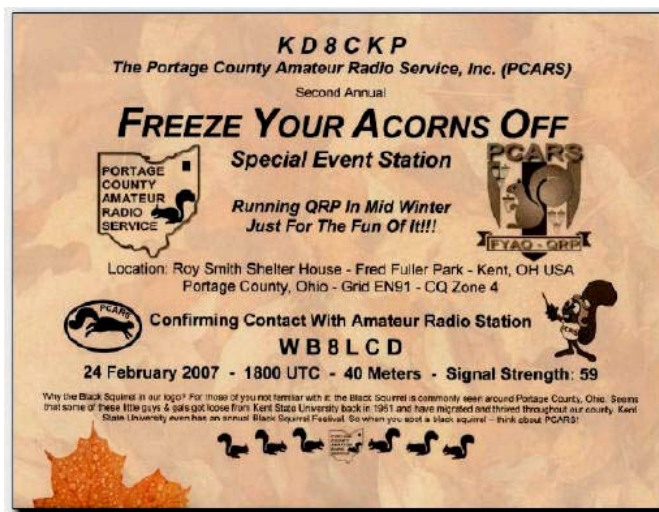
FYAO Special Event

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) 2nd Annual "Freeze Your Acorns Off" (FYAO) QRP Special Event Station KD8CKP will be active in the General areas of the 15, 20 and 40 meter bands.



Join us on Saturday - Feb 24, 2007 - We'll be on the air from 10:00 am EST until 6:00 PM EST

Our transmitters will be at the Roy Smith Shelter at the Fred Fuller Park in Kent, Ohio in the middle of WINTER. Yes, we'll be braving the cold snowy weather of North Eastern Ohio to set up QRP stations using portable power and antennas.



A beautiful color (suitable for framing) 8 x 10 certificate will be available if you send your QSL cards and a SASE to the club call trustee - KB8VJL.

So, from the comfort of your warm radio shack - give us a contact while we're out freezing. Your support will be very much appreciated!

Morse Code License Requirement Abolished

By now, we all know FCC has ruled to abolish Morse code testing as part of any amateur license requirement. There isn't much further to be said. With this act, FCC has taken a few additional steps. You can read about these on the ARRL web site.

Please notice the only thing abolished by FCC was the testing requirements. The use of Morse is still allowed and no CW privileges were lost by this latest Report & Order. Similarly, ARRL will continue with code practice, bulletins and CW operating activities. CW is not dead and won't die for many years, if ever.

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE ABOUT CODE TESTING

First, a question: What was the code test speed Hiram Percy Maxim (1AW, W1AW SK) passed to become a ham? Answer later.

As you may know, my prime operating mode on HF is CW. I enjoy it. It is a nice tool. For me, it helps keep my mind sharp.

Having said this, I do not feel that the FCC sold Amateur Radio down the river with its Report & Order to abolish code testing as a requirement for obtaining a ham license. As shocking as this may sound to some members . . . and nonmembers, as well . . . I've never thought Amateur Radio was all about Morse code testing or even Morse code.

Morse code has been -- and will remain for quite some time -- a valuable tool in radio, including Amateur Radio. And, contrary to an oft-stated popular belief, the US military has not totally abandoned Morse code. It is still found hiding in the nooks and crannies of military communication. It will continue to be a useful and well-used mode for many amateurs.

Some of you may view the demise of Morse code testing as a huge mistake and, moreover, deaths blow to our great radio service. I respectfully disagree. As I mentioned in one of my newsletters a couple of years ago, discarding Morse testing is merely one more change in the history of Amateur Radio.

Just as automobile drivers no longer need to take driving exams in cars equipped with manual transmissions, incoming hams will simply not need to pass a code test. Drivers who have passed drivers license testing without touching the shift lever of a manual transmission are drivers just as much as drivers who tested using manual transmissions. So, too, hams who have passed amateur license testing without touching a telegraph key or keyer are just as much radio amateurs as amateurs who passed 20 wpm exams.

Contrary to the belief that it is Morse code that gives us qualified operators, it is the operator who makes a qualified ham. An unethical, selfish individual who becomes a ham will be an unethical, selfish ham regardless of whether he or she has passed a code exam.

Don't believe me? Look around the bands and check over FCC enforcement records. You will see that some of the worst operators and most flagrant violators of FCC rules are Advanced and Extra Class licensees. Flip the coin to its other side and you'll see that some of the best and most law abiding operators are no code Techs . . . many who joined Amateur Radio after getting their introduction to radio through CB.

As one of my most outspoken critics, Jim Wades, K8SIW recently wrote on the QMN (CW traffic net) Reflector, "We will gain nothing by creating a 'cast system' based on telegraph proficiency or any other

standard. Attempts on the part of operators to belittle, isolate, or otherwise single-out individuals as 'no-code' licensees or by otherwise implying they are not 'real hams' will likely be very counterproductive." Jim went on to observe, "Such an approach was taken by some misguided individuals after the implementation of the no-code Technician license and it did much harm to the Amateur Service and CW in particular." Amen, Jim.

Just as some world cultures relegate "undesirable" people into inferior classes (e.g. the unclean); many



amateurs mistakenly cast other hams into hamdom's supposed inferior classes. To some amateurs, the real sinners in the world are no code Techs and 5 wpm Generals, Advanced and Extra Class operators and such. How many times have you heard someone say, "I'm a

'real' Extra." I passed 20 wpm. Or, what about an old time Extra who might say he is a "truly real" Extra because he had to draw wiring diagrams for his written exam as well as pass 20 wpm.

You've doubtlessly heard of hams who have been cast into other versions of Amateur Radio's leper colony.

Many decades ago, the argument was over spark gap. Today, many hams don't know what spark gap is and couldn't care less. Back then, to be a "real" amateur, one had to use spark gap, not the new-fangled continuous wave (CW) stuff. Then we "moved on" to the "you aren't a 'real' amateur if you 'talk' over the air" debate. Using code was "the only way to go." After this it became "you aren't a 'real' amateur if you use this noise-polluting, Donald Duck-sounding SSB garbage."

There have been changes in Amateur Radio ever since it first came into existence. Change is what Amateur Radio is about. There will continue to be change for as long as it exists. Technology and science move on, even though we would be more comfortable if we could stay where things don't change. Humans don't like change. We like to stay in the comfort zone of known territory. This is where we can stay warm and fuzzy.

My message is that we all are Amateur Radio operators. This applies whether our license is a no code Tech or a 20 wpm Extra. We all are hams. Moreover, we don't have such huge numbers of people in Amateur Radio and we haven't captivated the public imagination sufficiently with our miraculous deeds that we can afford to be snobbish over how long we each have been licensed . . . or over differences in the requirements that

were in place when we took our exams . . . or over how we like to spend our time on the air. We can't afford to divide one ham from another.

We need to work together to develop a great new Amateur Radio that recaptures and surpasses its gloried past. We will never be able to accomplish this task if we don't respect each other and work together.

Answer to question: Hiram Percy Maxim, a principal founder of ARRL and Amateur Radio, never took a code test to obtain a ham license. In spite of this, he was a great user of Morse and a great ham. 73,

Jim Weaver - K8JE
Director ARRL Great Lakes Division

Here are the latest HF Band Plans from the ARRL web site:

160 Meters (1.8-2.0 MHz):

1.800 - 2.000	CW
1.800 - 1.810	Digital Modes
1.810	CW QRP
1.843-2.000	SSB, SSTV and other wideband modes
1.910	SSB QRP
1.995 - 2.000	Experimental
1.999 - 2.000	Beacons

80 Meters (3.5-4.0 MHz):

3.590	RTTY/Data DX
3.570-3.600	RTTY/Data
3.790-3.800	DX window
3.845	SSTV
3.885	AM calling frequency

40 Meters (7.0-7.3 MHz):

7.040	RTTY/Data DX
7.080-7.125	RTTY/Data
7.171	SSTV
7.290	AM calling frequency

30 Meters (10.1-10.15 MHz):

10.130-10.140	RTTY
10.140-10.150	Packet

20 Meters (14.0-14.35 MHz):

14.070-14.095	RTTY
14.095-14.0995	Packet
14.100	NCDXF Beacons
14.1005-14.112	Packet
14.230	SSTV
14.286	AM calling frequency

17 Meters (18.068-18.168 MHz):

18.100-18.105	RTTY
18.105-18.110	Packet

15 Meters (21.0-21.45 MHz):

21.070-21.110	RTTY/Data
21.340	SSTV

12 Meters (24.89-24.99 MHz):

24.920-24.925	RTTY
24.925-24.930	Packet

10 Meters (28-29.7 MHz):

28.000-28.070	CW
28.070-28.150	RTTY
28.150-28.190	CW
28.200-28.300	Beacons
28.300-29.300	Phone
28.680	SSTV
29.000-29.200	AM
29.300-29.510	Satellite Downlinks
29.520-29.590	Repeater Inputs
29.600	FM Simplex
29.610-29.700	Repeater Outputs

January Contest Calendar

January, 2007

Original QRP Contest	1500Z, Jan 6-1500Z, Jan 7
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z, Jan 6-2400Z, Jan 7
Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2400Z, Jan 7
MI QRP January CW Contest	1200Z, Jan 13-2359Z, Jan 14
Midwinter Contest, CW	1400Z-2000Z, Jan 13
N. American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 13-0600Z, Jan 14
Midwinter Contest, Phone	0800Z-1400Z, Jan 14
NAQCC Straight Key Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 18
N. American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 20-0600Z, Jan 21
ARRL Jan. VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z, Jan 20-0400Z, Jan 22
Run for the Bacon QRP	0100Z-0300Z, Jan 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	0000Z, Jan 27-2359Z, Jan 28

Hamfest Calendar

28 Jan 2007 - Tusco ARC - <http://noard.com/tuscoarc.htm> - Talk-In: 146.730 (PL 71.9) - Contact: Gary Green, K8WFN - 32210 Norris Rd. - Tippecanoe, OH 44699 - Phone: 740-922-4454 - Email: uscofest07@hotmail.com - Walick Auction House - 965 North Wooster Avenue - Strasburg, OH

1 Feb 2007 - Mid-Winter Hamfest - InterCity ARC - <http://www.iarc.ws> - Talk-In: 146.940 (PL 71.9) - Contact: Dean Wrasse, KB8MG - 1094 Beal Rd. - Mansfield, OH 44905 - Phone: 419-589-2415 - Email: deanwrasse@yahoo.com - Richland County Fairgrounds - 750 North Home Rd. - Mansfield, OH

4 Feb 2007 - Winter HAM Fest - Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society - <http://www.noars.net> - Talk-In: 146.70- (open repeater) - Contact: Tom Porter, W8KYZ - 161 Herrmann Dr. - Avon Lake, OH 44012 - Phone: 440-930-9115 - Email: tporter161@oh.rr.com - Gargus Hall - 1965 North Ridge Rd. - Lorain, OH

Potato Power

Here's a little bet you can play on Gramps, or just to entertain the kids at your next holiday get-together.

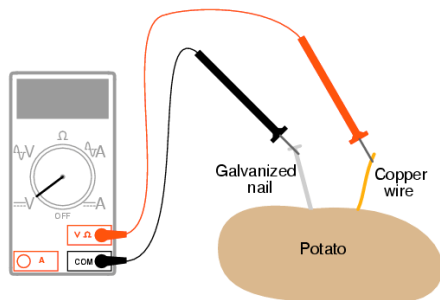
Potato battery:

- One large potato
- Strip of zinc, or galvanized metal
- Piece of thick copper wire

The basic experiment is based on the use of a potato, but many fruits and vegetables work as potential batteries!

For the zinc electrode, a large galvanized nail works well. Nails with a thick, rough zinc texture are preferable to galvanized nails that are smooth.

I've also seen this done using a penny for the copper with a cut potato sitting on tin foil for the bottom conductor.



So what could you power with your Potato Battery? A small digital clock, or anything that

require small amounts of voltage and current. You can however hook many potatoes in series and parallel to increase the voltage and current.

Amos Latteier, a gentleman from Oregon built a potato battery out of 500 pounds of potatoes. It powered a small sound system. With the help of some friends he installed the battery and sound system in the back of a U-Haul truck and drove it around town inviting people to enter the truck and take a listen.

Batteries work by allowing electrons to pass from one electrode to another. In this case the potato provides phosphoric acid, which enables a chemical reaction causing electrons flow from copper to zinc. The zinc came from galvanized nails and copper came from small pieces of copper. You don't have to use potatoes; any acidic medium such as



citrus fruit will work. Potatoes were used because they are traditional and cheap.



and 4 milliamps.

Warning: Don't eat potatoes after using them for a battery.

Russ - KB8DPN

Hurricane Prep Net

The Skywarn Hurricane Preparedness Net, meets each week on the *WX_TALK* Echolink Conference Server, Echolink Node 7203, IRLP Node 9219, at 0000 UTC Sunday (7pm Eastern Standard Time Saturday/8pm Eastern Daylight Time Saturday). The net will resume on Jan. 6, 2007.

More information is at <http://www.voipwx.net>

Concerning Daylight Savings Time, starting in 2007... it'll run from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November... so mark your calendars now.

73,

Daryl - N5VLZ

Primary Sysop, The Thunderbolt BBS, Little Rock, Arkansas
BBS Website: <http://tbolt.synchro.net>
Main Website: <http://www.wx1der.com>
Ham Radio Echolink User Node: 284997

PCARS Thursday Net Information

I'm happy to report that the first year of the 2-meter net has been an outstanding success! Over the course of the past 52 weeks, we've managed to have 52 nets with a total number of check-ins at 942. Our nets have been fun, informative about club activities and just a good place to keep track of each other. If you've not been a regular, make an effort in 2007 to participate.

In addition to check ins from all over NE Ohio, we've had echo-link check-ins from Australia, Canada, India, Michigan, Illinois, Tennessee, Texas, W. Virginia, California, Arkansas, Kansas, Florida, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Vermont and New Mexico. Randy N6TL even ran the net once via Echolink from Tennessee. We truly do get check-ins from around the block to around the world!

Kudos to the following for 30+ check-ins to the net:

KC8PD – 52 Consecutive Check-Ins!!!!!!!!!!
KB8UUZ – 51 Check-Ins
KB8DPN – 50 Check-Ins
WB8LCD – 50 Check-Ins
W8KNO – 42 Check-Ins
KC8FQV – 41 Check-Ins
N8WLE – 39 Check-Ins
KD8DFM – 38 Check-Ins
N4TIE – 35 Check-Ins
K8CMP – 35 Check-Ins
KB8VJL – 33 Check-Ins
KC8RKV – 32 Check-Ins
WB9LBI – 31 Check-Ins.

For those of you with 10 consecutive check-ins, your certificates will be presented at the January meeting.

I need to say "Thank You" to all the stations who have been Net Control Operators for the past year. You've done an outstanding job and we all appreciate it. Not only that, you've had the opportunity to gain real world experience that prepares you for the service the Amateur Radio Service exists to provide. That being said, I'd like many more of you to take one step out of your comfort zone and volunteer to be a net control operator at least once in the coming year. This is probably one of the friendliest nets you can break the ice in and have a good time doing it. Everyone will help you along as you work your way through it! So send me an e-mail

wb8lcd@portcars.org and let me know when your available, I'll make sure we get you in and give you a chance to experience the thrill of the net control!



Net Schedule for January & February

Jan 4	WB8LCD	Feb 1	KB8UUZ
Jan 11	KB8UUZ	Feb 8	WB8LCD
Jan 18	KB8DPN	Feb 15	K8CMP
Jan 25	KC8PD	Feb 22	KC8PD

Everyone is encouraged to check in, and, to try out being a Net Control Operator.

Tom - WB8LCD

PCARS Annual Dues are Due

Time flies when your having fun! It's that time of the year - annual dues (\$20) are due. Please bring your 2007 dues to the next meeting (Jan 8th), or snail mail it to KB8UUZ (check last page for address).

Checks can be made out to PCARS. If your call sign, name, address, phone, e-mail, etc has changed, please let me know so the records can be updated accordingly.

Eyeball to Eyeball - KC8PD

This month's E2E is Jim Aylward, KC8PD, one of the many members who live in Ravenna.

If you have been to any of the meetings where Jim has made his presentation on his time in the Gulf region helping out with emergency communications, then you know Jim's passion for community service.

Jim first got interested in short wave radio as a 10 yr. old boy listening to his uncle's RCA radio that carried the short wave bands and some amateur bands as well. Whenever his parents took him to his grandmother's house where his uncle lived at the time, Jim would be glued to the radio, listening to all the strange and wonderful stations that he could tune in. A few years later he got a Hallicrafter receiver and also had a copy of the Amateur Radio Handbook. But Jim did not know any other Hams and without an Elmer, he drifted away from radio as a hobby and by the time he was in high school, other hobbies took his interest, such as photography.

But just like some of the rest of us, once bitten, you cannot get completely free of HAM Radio. Even when he was not a HAM, Jim got a Knight Kit transmitter to assemble, along with a Heathkit oscilloscope. He put both together even knowing that he would never really get a chance to get the Xmtr on the air without a license. To this day, Jim does not know what happened to the Knight Kit, but he said that when you plugged it in and turned it on, the tubes did light up.

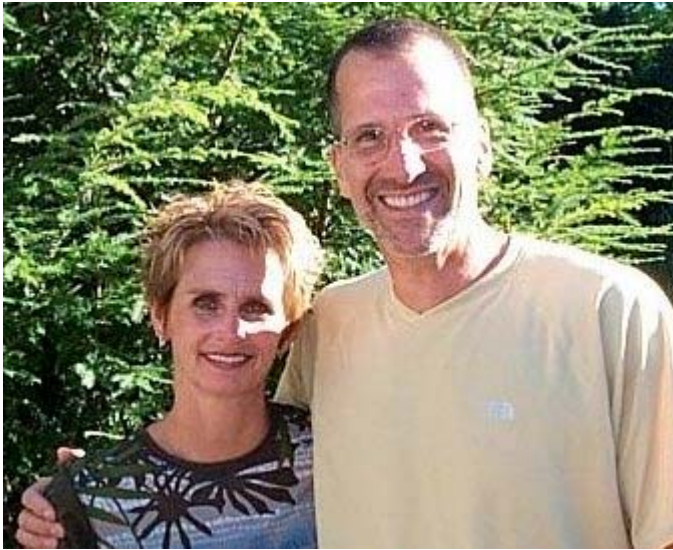
Another of Jim's passions is his BMW motorcycle, and because of his interest in a BMW owners group, a bulletin board posting of the group caught his eye. It mentioned that people should not forget Amateur Radio as a interesting hobby, especially since the FCC had recently changed the requirements for the Technician Class license. That was all Jim needed and after studying for the license, he passed the test in March of 2001. He upgraded to General in May of the same year and finally upgraded to Extra in October of 2002.

Jim's interest in Amateur Radio centers around the aspect of public service. His help during the Katrina hurricane efforts in the Gulf region are a testament to that fact. He also enjoys mobile operations on both VHF and HF bands. He regularly checks into some 40 meter nets in the morning and does enjoy working DX while on the road. From the shack, he has a variety of options open to him. But he is most interested in the digital modes, including PSK-31 and Pactor and finds these modes challenging. Of course, he also likes Echolink and has used it to check into our own Thursday night net.

His rigs consist of an Icom 746, and an Icom 207 Dual Bander. He presently has a multi-band dipole but will be replacing that soon with a Butternut vertical that

will give him 6 bands + WARC (12-17). He also has an SCS-PTC II USB multimode controller for Pactor operation.

In order to be able to enjoy all this, Jim does have a day job. He is the Chief Magistrate for the Portage County Juvenile & Probate Courts. He also is quite involved in community volunteering and serves and has served on various boards as a member or board chairman. He served with the Family Community Services organization and spent 8 years with TownHall II on their crisis intervention line. He has served with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and was past president of the Portage County Bar Association. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Association of Magistrates.



Jim is married to his wonderful and talented wife, Laura, who is also an attorney, and I might add, a very understanding person to be able to deal with Jim's hobby, which takes him sometimes to far away places. But then all of us Hams who are married are very fortunate to have such understanding XYLS.

Last but certainly not least, Jim mentioned PCARS. He has derived much satisfaction out of being one of the founding members of our club and knowing that he is part of an organization that is so community service minded- in no small part to Jim's involvement.

So thanks to Jim Aylward – KC8PD, for all the hard work he has done to make PCARS a club to which one can be proud to be a member. And further thanks for all the work that Jim does outside of HAM radio that helps the community in which Jim lives. Best of 73 to you and your family.

Chuck - K8CMP

Bouncing E-Mail

From time to time I send out e-mails to all the PCARS members. Over the past couple of months, a number of bounces have been coming back - mainly from Yahoo. Here are typical bounce messages:

```
> Failed to deliver to '<n8pxw@portcars.org>'
> SMTP module(domain yahoo.com) reports:
> connection with d.mx.mail.yahoo.com is broken
> Failed to deliver to '<N4TIE@portcars.org>'
> SMTP module(domain yahoo.com) reports:
> connection with d.mx.mail.yahoo.com is broken
> Original-Recipient:
rfc822;<n8pxw@portcars.org>
> Final-Recipient: rfc822;n8pxw@yahoo.com
> Action: failed
> Original-Recipient:
rfc822;<N4TIE@portcars.org>
> Final-Recipient:
rfc822;ccapps2439@yahoo.com
> Action: failed
```

I've seen this in the past sometimes with AOL, and CS.COM accounts also. I sent this information to Russ - KB8DPN, our PC/Web Guru and he sent me the following information that may be of interest to you:

Yes, Yahoo! is getting so serious about preventing spam that they reject connections from EVERYONE! It does not seem to matter who you are or where you are sending mail from, they immediately reject your connection. Here is a sample connection attempt:

```
421 Message from (70.95.120.130) temporarily
deferred - 4.16.50. Please refer to http://
help.yahoo.com/ help/us/ mail /defer/defer-
06.html Connection to host lost.
```

This technique is called gray listing. It is supposed to reduce spam by always rejecting you the first time on the assumption that a spammer won't call back, but a legitimate mail server will. And Yahoo's own bunch of yahoos that answer their support questions seem fond of the automated "gee it must be your fault" messages.

I had not really noticed, but several customers and friends have commented to me that they have problems sending to Yahoo! And if they are eventually successful, their mail goes in the Junk Mail folder. I have noticed that myself. Messages I have sent to Yahoo! users that never in a million years would a content filter have found the message to be spam, yet it ends up in the user's Junk Mail folder. Yahoo! claims that if you implement their Domain Keys technology, then this will reduce the amount mail that gets flagged as spam. Right.

Doing some research today, I found this article and had to laugh a couple of times. If it were not so infuriating then the whole situation would be funny.

www.ahfx.net/weblog.php?article=107



Simply put - like the article later mentions... You get what you pay for... Perhaps we should discourage or warn those member who chose to use Yahoo mail. This also seems to explain why some people don't get their email for several days. Sad to say I'm kinda feeling gmail might be doing similar, but still is the best thing out there for the price. (FREE) -- Russ - KB8DPN

Tom - KB8UUZ

Pictures from the December PCARS Meeting

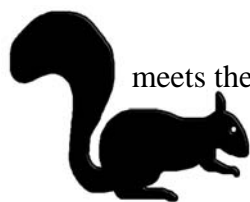
[These and MUCH more on the PCARS 2006 DVD]



Thanks

Well, that's the 1st issue of the PCARS newsletter the 'RADIOGRAM' for 2007. I appreciate your help in getting material for me, all the members look forward to getting this newsletter every month, so keep sending me those inputs! Thanks goes out to this months contributors: **WB8LCD, KC8PD, W8KNO, K8CMP, KB8UUZ, KB8DPN, WB9LBI, K8JE, N5VLZ, ARRL,** and the **World Wide Web.** With your continued help – we can make this a great newsletter.

Tom - KB8UUZ
Newsletter Editor



The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)
 meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at Mike's Place – Routes 261 & 43 in Kent
 All are welcome to attend – Drop in and say hello!



“When All Else Fails – Amateur Radio Works”

PCARS Uses Repeater: 146.895 MHz (PL 110.9 – Rootstown, Ohio PL 114.8 – Kent, Ohio)

Repeater is graciously provided by N8KW for use by PCARS members



PCARS Appointments & Committees		
Awards	W8KNO	Joe Wehner
Call Trustee	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Field Day	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
KD8CKP QSL Mgr.	KB8VJL	Al Atkins, Sr.
Net Controller	WB8LCD	Tom Sly
Newsletter	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
PIO	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
Secretary	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
Repeater	WB9LBI	Bill Fraedrich
VE Team	KC8PD	Jim Aylward
	KB8UUZ	Tom Parkinson
	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.
	N4TIE	Carl Capps
Web Master	KB8DPN	Russ Anderson, Sr.



PCARS Mentors – Need some help or advice?
Contact by email at <callsign> @portcars.org



1. Wire Antennas	14. Mobile (install)	Code	Contact
2. Beam Antennas	15. Computer Logging	17	Jim - KC8RKV
3. APRS	16. QSLs	5, 24	Bill - WB9LBI
4. Contesting	17. Echo Link	1, 4, 9, 12, 14, 16	Tom - KB8UUZ
5. CW Operation	18. Help - Icom	3, 6, 8, 12, 14, 17, 23, 25, 26, 20. - FT100 - VX5, 19. - TH-F6 - D700	Russ - KB8DPN
6. DF (Fox Hunt)	19. Help - Kenwood	1, 5, 10	Tom - WB8LCD
7. DXing	20. Help - Yaesu	2, 6, 14, 17, 23, 25	Jim - KC8PD
8. Experiment/Ckts.	21. Help - Boat Anchors	4, 5, 9	Joe - W8KNO
9. HF Phone	22. Amplifiers	2, 7, 9, 12, 20, 21	Chuck - K8CMP
10. QRP	23. EmComm		
11. Satellite	24. Traffic Handling		
12. VHF	25. FEMA / NIMS		
13. PSK-31	26. Computer Hardware		

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This is the **Electronic E-Mail** version of the **PCARS Newsletter, the RADIOGRAM**. The advantages to receiving the newsletter are: You get **COLOR** pictures, **NO** postage needed, and it's delivered right to **YOUR** e-mail box! If you know of anyone else that would like to receive this newsletter, please have them send me an e-mail. The RADIOGRAM is published every month and is sent only to subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, we understand. We'll try not to take it personally. It's not you saying you don't like us, but maybe you just don't have the time to look at all this hard work we've done just for you. Hey, that's cool. But if your heart is truly set on making sure you no longer receive this newsletter, even though we promise to one day reveal the meaning of life in it and you're going to be really upset when you miss out on that. To remove your self from the mail list – send an e-mail to me at: kb8uuz @ portcars.org

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

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